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A Message from the Dallas County Medical Society

My name is Gabriela Zandomeni. I am a physician, a wife, a mother, and the chair of the Dallas County Medical Society Communications Committee, the committee responsible for the publication of the Dallas Medical Journal, or DMJ. We recently started a series in the magazine called Bright Ideas to pose important questions to the members and publish their responses in their own words. The purpose is dialogue.

When we emailed the question regarding Gender Gap Pay, we received a now infamous response. We had a decision to make: Do we publish it, or ignore it? After considering the purpose of the series, we decided to publish it. **But — make no mistake — this is not the opinion of the Dallas County Medical Society.**

When I read this response, I was outraged, as many female physicians are today. However, I believe that to incite change, we must expose the issues that need changing. I also was outraged at the many more opinions claiming that gender pay does not exist. This is not a new concept; there are many more physicians who do not see the discrimination, the misguided prejudices that influence our employment. The danger is not in this single physician's response, however misogynistic and insulting it was. The danger is in the physicians who think this but do not express it, or who justify it: "Well ... women have more family responsibilities, or women will have their husband's income and treat this as a hobby," etc. Many of these people are in power and influence when women are offered less pay than their male counterparts. This needs to be exposed! The other part to this is apathy. When no one cares, there is no momentum for change.

DCMS is a strong supporter of all physicians, and we recognize the importance of this issue and many others to women physicians. We were one of the first county societies in the nation to start a Women in Medicine Committee. Please send in your responses to the gender gap opinions published in the September DMJ journal. We will choose a representative sample and publish them in the October DMJ.

Thank you all and have a good Labor Day weekend,

Gabriela M. Zandomeni, MD, Chair
DCMS Communications Committee